

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A compact apparatus for forming strips of material suitable for use in packing, comprising:

a shredding mechanism device including a means for securing blanks operative to form material strips therefrom;

a conveyor having a perforated belt movable between an input position at which material strips from said shredder device are placed atop said perforated belt, and a discharge position where the material strips are discharged from said perforated belt; and means for removing contaminants from the material strips.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a slitter for slitting corrugated cardboard into blanks of predetermined size before placement on the means for securing blanks.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the slitter is adapted for creating blanks of approximately four inches in width.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein slitter the adapted for automatically feeding the blanks into an inlet of the shredding mechanism.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the slitter is adapted for the removal of clips, staples and tape and other closure devices from cardboard before slitting.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shredding mechanism includes at least one blade, whereby strips are formed from blanks by a scissor cutting motion.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blade is located on a roller.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for securing comprises a plurality of parallel rigid guides for the blanks.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the guides further comprise at least one generally horizontal slot complementary to a corresponding side of the blank.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a knurled roller system for impinging upon the top surface of the blank.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of means for producing tension on a blank.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for producing tension comprises at least one front end leaf spring.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each leaf spring further comprises at least one suppression pad.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the tension from the spring is adjustable.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the guides are adjustable so that the width of the blanks entering the apparatus is adjustable.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the guides further comprising a crossover member.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shredding mechanism further comprises a centering construct for centering strips on an input end of the conveyor.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the centering construct is attached to a drop chute at an output end of the shredding mechanism.

19. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyor passes through said means for removing contaminants and suction occurs below the strips.

20. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

21. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

22. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

23. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

24. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

25. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

26. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

27. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

28. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

29. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the conveyor comprises one or more cleats optimized for moving strips from the output end of the shredding device.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the conveyor comprises a fiberglass, Kevlar coated webbing.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an angled perforated sifter plate located at the discharge end of the conveyor.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the sifter plate is in mechanical communication with a means for vibrating, whereby the sifter plate is vibrated to remove contaminants.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the sifter plate includes an upper end, a lower end and a generally smooth drop zone located at the upper end.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the sifter plate further comprises a generally smooth drop off zone located at the lower end.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further including means for spraying a liquid having microbicidal, sanitizing, insect repellant, disinfectant and deodorizing properties onto the material strips.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the means for spraying further includes a means for dispensing a purging liquid.

38. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

39. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the means for spraying and the means for dispensing a purging liquid comprise a ball valve.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a mechanical induced air pressure within a tank of purging liquid activated by an electrical switching device.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises wheels for transportation.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the slitter further comprises adjustable rotating cutting disks for forming blanks.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the means for spraying further comprises a frame for holding one or more tanks of liquid.

45. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

46. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

47. (Canceled Without Prejudice)

48. (Withdrawn) A compact apparatus for forming strips of material suitable for use on packing, comprising:

means for shredding blanks, having means for securing blanks operative to form material strips therefrom;

belt means for conveying strips from said means for shredding to a discharge location;

housing means for providing suction on a portion of said belt means; and

means for sifting the strips at a location beyond said discharge point.